

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HAMBUR 00618 282258Z

17  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W  
----- 045988

R 281545Z APR 76  
FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3778  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HAMBURG 0618

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT GW  
SUBJECT: ROETGER CROSS RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE FDP PARTY  
BOARD IN LOWER SAXONY

REF: HAMBURG 190

1. AT THE FDP STATE PARTY CONVENTION IN BRAUNSCHWEIG ON  
APRIL 24-25, 1976, ROETGER GROSS, THE LAND CHAIRMAN AND  
MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR IN THE PREVIOUS KUBEL SPD/FDP  
STATE COALITION GOVERNMENT, WAS RE-ELECTED PARTY CHAIR-  
MAN FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. IN A THREE-CORNERED RACE,  
GROSS RAN A CLOSE SECOND IN THE FIRST OF TWO ELECTIONS  
AGAINST HIS PRINCIPAL PARTY RIVAL, ERICH KUEPKER, MINISTER  
OF ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC WORKS IN THE FORMER KUBEL ADMINIS-  
TRATION, AND SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF ROLF VIETEN, THE TOWN MANAGER  
OF GOETTINGEN. BECAUSE NONE OF THE THREE RECEIVED A MAJORITY  
OF THE VOTE CAST, A RUNOFFSELECTION WAS NECESSARY. IN THE  
SECOND BALLOT VIETEN WITHDREW HIS CANDIDACY, THEREBY  
ASSURING THE SUCCESSFUL REELECTION BID OF GROSS. THE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HAMBUR 00618 282258Z

NEW LAND PARTY BOARD IS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAIRMAN: ROETGER GROSS, 43,  
1ST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: FRITZ LOGEMANN, 69, MDB  
2ND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: ERICH KUEPKER, 43  
3RD DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: ROLF VIETEN, 36  
TREASURER: DETLEV KLEINERT, 44, MDB.

2. THE CAMPAIGN HAD NO DRAMATIC MOMENTS. MOST OF THE ISSUES DEBATED WERE INCONSEQUENTIAL AND NO ONE, LEAST OF ALL THE POLITICAL WRITERS FOR THE LOWER SAXONY PROVINCIAL PRESS WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED THIS ELECTION, WAS DISTRACTED BY THE MANY IRRELEVANT INTRA-PARTY SQUABBLES FROM THE ONE GENUINE ISSUE AT STAKE, TO WIT, WHETHER OR NOT THE FDP SHOULD ENTER INTO A COALITION AGREEMENT WITH THE CDU IN HANNOVER.

3. AS WE REPORTED IN THE PAST, GROSS STEADFASTLY SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF A LOOSE ALLIANCE WITH THE SPD AND REJECTED ANY PROPOSAL TO SHIFT HIS PARTY'S ALLIANCE TO THE CDU. PRIOR TO THE FEBRUARY 6 ELECTION OF ALBRECHT AS MINISTER-PRESIDENT, GROSS MADE A NUMBER OF UNEQUIVOCAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR A STABLE SPD/FDP RELATIONSHIP BOTH IN LOWER SAXONY AND IN BONN. AS NOTED IN HAMBURG 190, VARIOUS FDP NATIONAL LEADERS TRIED RECENTLY TO CONVINCE GROSS THAT THE PARTY'S POLITICAL MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE WITH THE SPD WAS AUTOMATICALLY DISSOLVED BY THE ALBRECHT ELECTORAL VICTORY IN LOWER SAXONY. HOWEVER, GROSS HAS REMAINED CONSTANT IN HIS OPPOSITION TO AN EXPEDIENT CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTNERS AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN THIS INTRANSIGENCE, THIS LOYALTY TO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE SPD WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT HIS RE-ELECTION AS PARTY CHAIRMAN OVER KUEPKER WHO SEEMED TO WAVER BACK AND FORTH DURING THE CAMPAIGN ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THE FDP SHOULD ACCEPT ALBRECHT'S INVITATION TO JOIN HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. OBVIOUSLY THE RE-ELECTION OF GROSS COMES AS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE ALBRECHT GOVERNMENT. IT WAS THE HOPE OF THE CDU LEADERSHIP - INDEED, EXPECTATION - THAT FOLLOWING THE FDP PARTY BOARD ELECTION THAT THE FDP WOULD FEEL LESS CONSTRAINED TO HONOR ITS PRIOR POLITICAL ALLIANCE WITH THE SPD AND AGREE TO BECOME THE JUNIOR PARTNER IN THE CDU/FDP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 HAMBUR 00618 282258Z

COALITION GOVERNMENT. ALBRECHT HAS REFRAINED FOR THE PAST 10 WEEKS IN APPOINTING THE REMAINING THREE OR FOUR MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET, HOPING ALL THE TIME THAT A NEW FDP STATE BOARD WOULD BE ELECTED WHICH MIGHT BE DISPOSED TO ACCEPT HIS INVITATION TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN HANNOVER. NOW ALBRECHT WILL HAVE TO GO IT ALONE AS THE HEAD OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT, RELUCTANTLY FILLING THE REMAINING POSITIONS WITH MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY. BROGAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, REPORTS, PARTY ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976HAMBUR00618  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760162-0907  
**From:** HAMBURG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760414/aaaaalrh.tel  
**Line Count:** 115  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 HAMBURG 190  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROETGER CROSS RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE FDP PARTY BOARD IN LOWER SAXONY  
**TAGS:** PINT, GE, (GROSS, ROETGER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006